

**WMBR 88.1 FM**  
**QUARTERLY ISSUES & COMMUNITY ASCERTAINMENT**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER / April 1 – June 30, 2020**

The following is a list, of issues, the management, of WMBR Radio, has determined to be of significant importance, to the citizens of Cambridge and the Greater Boston Area of Massachusetts. Each issue was treated through the station's most significant issue-responsive programming and community activities, during the reporting period.

**“Radio with a View” - Sunday, 10am – 11am**

**“The WMBR News” – Monday – Friday, 5:30pm – 6:00pm**

**“What’s Left” – Fridays, 8pm – 9pm**

**CULTS and POLITICS**

**PROGRAM:** Radio with a View  
**HOST:** Marc J. Stern and Dave Goodman  
**GUEST:** Chip Berlet/journalist/analyst and activist  
**TOPIC:** Continued Growth of Right-Wing Authoritarianism in United States  
**Aired:** Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**DURATION:** 60 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** N/A

We interviewed Mr. Berlet, on Easter Sunday and he talked about the continued rise of right-wing movements, with a special focus on evangelical Christians. These groups, he argues, see themselves and the Trump administration as divinely inspired. They are, he suggests, fighting Satan in their political activity. They have, he proposed, reached the level of a cult in their practices and their willingness to perceive all 'outsiders' as enemies. Finally, he argued for the imperative of continued in-person demonstrations to show resistance to these views.

**DOMESTIC PROTESTS**

**PROGRAM:** Radio with a View  
**HOST:** Marc J. Stern and Dave Goodman  
**GUEST:** Robert Datz/journalist and activist  
**TOPIC:** Kent State Massacre Then and Now  
**Aired:** Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 60 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** N/A

Mr. Datz, who is a Central Massachusetts-based journalist/activist and a survivor of the Kent State Massacre, that occurred on May 4, 1970. He talked about his experiences at the Massacre. He noted that it changed his life and propelled him into a career in activism. This also led to his willingness to challenge authority, if it acts inappropriately, in the United States or other countries. His activism has encouraged him to continue engagement, including his work in the environmental movement.

## **ECONOMY**

**PROGRAM:** What's Left

**HOST:** Linda Pinkow

**TOPIC:** Reopening the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Aired:** Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

**DURATION:** 9 minutes

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

This show covered a press conference, by the "Massachusetts Coalition for Health Equity", on "Reopening the State Economy", on May 18. The press conference included comments by State Representatives Tami Gouveia, of Acton and Mike Connolly, of Cambridge. There was also comments from an anonymous grocery store worker. They warned that the Governor Baker is risking lives by prematurely opening businesses and called for the state's Reopening Advisory Board to include representation from labor leaders, the faith community and more public health experts.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

**PROGRAM:** WMBR Nightly News

**HOST:** Linda Pinkow

**TOPIC:** Emergency Paid Sick Time Proposal

**Aired:** Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

**DURATION:** 5 minutes

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

One, of the news segments, dealt with "The Raise Up Massachusetts Coalition", who filed legislation that would provide 10 additional workdays of paid sick time during the COVID-19 outbreak. The report included comments in support, of the proposal, by Anibel Santiago, grassroots coordinator at the Coalition for Social Justice and State Representative Paul Donato, of Medford, one of the sponsors of the bill, who spoke, at a virtual town hall event, on April 29.

**PROGRAM:** WMBR Nightly News  
**HOST:** Linda Pinkow  
**TOPIC:** Workers' Memorial Day Ceremony  
**Aired:** Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>  
**DURATION:** 10 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

One, of the news segments, dealt with the annual "Workers Memorial Day Ceremony", honoring Massachusetts workers who were killed, injured or made ill on their jobs in the past year. This event was held on April 28. Organized by the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH), the event honored the memory of 69 workers. The report featured Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Associate Minister for Ecological Justice, at Bethel AME Church, in Boston. Al Vega, Director of Programs and Policy, for MassCOSH, spoke about the ongoing problems of workplace safety and how conditions have gotten worse because of the COVID-19 pandemic and Darlene Lombos, of the Greater Boston Labor Council, who talked about the potential for workers to come together for mutual support.

## **EPIDEMICS**

**PROGRAM:** Radio with a View  
**HOST:** Marc J. Stern and Dave Goodman  
**GUEST:** Mike Davis/Emeritus Professor at the University of California  
**TOPIC:** Covid-19, Big Pharma and Resistance to the Trump Administration  
**Aired:** Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 60 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** N/A

Professor Davis is an author of the first major historical look at the coming epidemics. He argues that the capitalist structure, of commercial biotech, works against effective vaccine development, by restricting attacks, on stem structures of flu viruses. He also notes the failure of the US economy to promote public health solutions rather than high profit drug development for purposes of stock promotion. Finally, he argues that the growth of movements, among movements and other service workers, speaks to the rising of a long 'contained' workers' movement for socialism/social democracy.

## **HOUSING**

**PROGRAM:** WMBR Nightly News  
**HOST:** Linda Pinkow  
**GUEST:** David Goodman/WMBR News Commentator  
**TOPIC:** Co-housing in the Time of COVID  
**AIRED:** Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>  
**DURATION:** 5 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Goodman produced and narrated a report about his experience living, in a Boston co-housing development, during the pandemic. His community was created to facilitate neighborhood interaction, but residents are now adapting to the realities of social distancing. The report also included comments about community preservation from several other residents.

**PROGRAM:** WMBR Nightly News  
**HOST:** Linda Pinkow  
**TOPIC:** Workers' Memorial Day Ceremony  
**AIRED:** Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>  
**DURATION:** 10 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

This evening's news provided coverage of a virtual teach-in about the new moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, passed by the Massachusetts Legislature and signed by Governor Baker. Representatives of "Homes for All Massachusetts", a coalition of local housing justice groups, spoke about the new moratorium, explaining what it means for renters, owner-occupants, and small businesses. Speakers included Lisa Owens, executive director of "City Life/Vida Urbana", a housing justice organization in Boston, Isaac Simon Hodes, director of "Lynn United for Change", and Massachusetts State Representative Mike Connolly of Cambridge, one of the lead sponsors of the bill.

## **MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTION SYSTEM**

**PROGRAM:** What's Left  
**HOST:** Linda Pinkow  
**TOPIC:** Decarceration and COVID-19  
**Aired:** Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 10 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

This program aired brief videos, compiled by the Massachusetts Community Action Network, encouraging Governor Baker and other state officials to release some incarcerated people during the COVID-19 crisis. There were five Greater Boston residents who commented on the need to reduce the number of people being held in detention to prevent a public health catastrophe.

## **LABOR**

**PROGRAM:** Radio with a View  
**HOST:** Marc J. Stern  
**GUEST:** David Goodman/WMBR Nightly News Reporter  
**TOPIC:** Evictions and Coronavirus AT&T  
**Aired:** Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 20 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Goodman discussed an article on labor negotiations at ATT while the firm did \$3 billion in stock buybacks. We discussed the impact of both hedge funds and the 2017 tax 'reform' that encouraged both stock purchases by hedge funds and senior managers and the repatriation of profits from overseas that encouraged both high dividends and stock buybacks. All this is happening while the firm is stonewalling negotiations with CWA workers and while the market, itself, is falling. Mr. Goodman noted the work of author William Lazonick, in terms of value extraction and the impact on the economy during a time of instability in terms of health and the global economy.

## **RACE**

**PROGRAM:** What's Left  
**HOST:** Linda Pinkow  
**TOPIC:** The Pandemic and Racial Health Disparities  
**Aired:** Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>  
**DURATION:** 23 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

This program played excerpts from a June 9, 2020 conversation exploring the racially disproportionate impact of the pandemic. The discussion was hosted by the Men of Color Task Force and the Cambridge Public Health Department. Also, in the discussion, were comments by State Representative Liz Miranda, of Boston and United States Representative Ayanna Pressley. These ladies talked about the how and why COVID-19 has exacerbated racial health disparities in communities of color; how it has affected them personally.

## **COMMUNITY ISSUES**

**PROGRAM:** What's Left  
**HOST:** Linda Pinkow  
**TOPIC:** City of Cambridge COVID-19 Response  
**Aired:** Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**DURATION:** 9 minutes  
**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

This show aired audio excerpts, from a video teach-in, by the City of Cambridge, recorded on May 17. Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui and City Manager Louis DePasquale answered questions about testing for the virus, and whether to wear masks submitted by the community.